JFK Plot 'Informant' Tells Of Psychiatric Treatments

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NEW ORLEANS, March 15—An insurance salesman, who testified yesterday he heard Lee Harvey Oswald and two other men plotting to assassinate President Kennedy, said today he underwent psychiatric treatment for two years around 1960.

Perry R. Russo, 25, took the stand for the second day in a preliminary hearing to determine if Clay Shaw should be held for trial.

Security precautions were tightened drastically inside and outside the courtroom because of what police called threatening phone calls.

NEEDED TO TALK

Deputies searched everyone entering the room. Yesterday they were content with using a metal detector. Twenty deputies guarded the courtroom. City police were added to the force.

Russo was questioned intensively about the psychiatric treatment. He was quizzed by an attorney for Shaw, the retired executive accused by District Attorney Jim Garrison of being one of the assassination conspirators.

Russo, of Baton Rouge, was calmer today than yesterday when he related details of the alleged conspiracy. He said he visited a psychiatrist "when I needed to talk to someone." He added that he had not seen a psychiatrist this year.

One of the four lawyers representing Shaw, 54, asked Russo, "Do you believe in God?"

"How do you define God?" responded Russo, 25-year-old insurance salesman, to the lawyer, F. Irving Dymond.

Asked for his own definition, Russo said: "God is everything, the entity of the universe, me, you, everything."

Q. You took an oath to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and how do you define truth?

A. I think I would be telling the truth to the best as I knew it under penalty of the law.

Q. Under penalty of God?

A. God is everything. He is you, me, everything. I consider my oath a promise to God, to myself, to everyone in this room.

JUDGE INTERRUPTS

Presiding Judge Bernard J. Bagert cut off the line of questioning by saying: "This is not a catechism class. Let's move on out of this area."

Dymond then quizzed Russo about his family background and finances.

At the start of today's session, Shaw's attorneys questioned officials from Loyola University and law school about Russo's student records.

Frank J. Stass, registrar of the school, testified that Russo once attended the New Orleans

Turn to Page 2

Informant Reveals Psychiatric Visits

Continued from Page One

institution. Dean Anthony Papale of the law school identified records which showed Russo studied law for one year.

Shaw's attorneys today subpoenaed the tape of an interview with Russo made by WDSU-TV in New Orleans Feb. 24, two days after the death of Ferrie. Dwight Martin, vice president of WDSU-TV, brought the tape and a recorder into the courtroom.

In his appearance yesterday, Russo said he was in Ferrie's apartment in September 1963 and heard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie planning to assassinate Kennedy and make a getaway.

A policewoman and a deputy sheriff searched all persons entering the small courtroom.

Police arrested and booked James R. Liscombe, 30, for making threatening telephone calls. Liscombe is a musician in a Bourbon Street night club.